

1 June 70

to Roffman/ Weisberg

Dear Howard/Harold:

I have little to send you with this letter except comments on your correspondence

399 base-- Nichols: I received Nichols' 399-base photo from Harold, and will have it copied as he instructed. I agree with Harold that no differences appear between this and Harold's photo. I'll have to look at the photo more carefully, and may comment further later.

00-buckshot: I disagree with Howard that this case provides a "good analogy" with JFK case. In fact I think it a poor analogy--no analogy at all, really. The reason is that the WC alleges that a bullet exited JFK's throat at a velocity of about 2000 fps. 00-buck does not have near that, even as initial velocity. It is likely that a bullet exiting at 2000 fps. will produce a wound visibly different from an entrance wound. It is equally likely that a 00-buck exiting will produce a wound very similar to wound of entrance, at least in that it will be small and round. Eyeball examination may not detect the important differences.

Document. Addendum: I'll send this later by separate mail. It is not too heavy.

Dum-dums: The "X" scratched into the nose of the so-called Walker bullet is probably an identification mark placed there by ~~the~~ a cop who received the bullet. ~~Phixixixixix~~ The bullet nose is the normal place for making such marks.

The "X" on the nose of dum-dums has to be filed deeply into the nose, so that it cuts deeply into the lead that is under the copper jacket. Normally this would be filed, not scratched with a knife.

Roffman book: I look forward to seeing draft. Do not be reluctant to use other people's published material, for much that has been published bears importantly on what you have to say. Consider making a complete record, rather than a record of new things, for often the new seems irrelevant without reference to the old.~~xxx~~

Roffman letter to Rhodes: Excellent stuff; good luck with it. The spelling "Oliver" is wrong. The man's name is Olivier.

In item (4), do not use the word "transpired" with reference to the word "changes". This is nit-picking grammar and not very important, but should be changed as follows: "If any such changes have occurred, I would like to know under what circumstances they occurred".

On item (5), check Robert Frazier's testimony for indication whether 399 was stuck in wax or similar substance for examination. I believe so, but am not sure.

Slides-- Roffman: I am most interested to see what you have. If you want slides made of your slides, I can do it cheaply and with excellent quality. I can't get prints more cheaply, though. Prints cost me about the same as they would cost you.

I cannot properly visualize the "tan residues" that you describe in the color slide of 399-base. Would like to see this.

Skolnick (mostly for Howard): The copy of Coup pages that I sent you are not sufficient as proof of stealing.

That the phone slip re John Hurt came from Bud is not rumor, but fact. Harold confirmed this with Bud.

Many thanks for the Kevin-Skolnick interview. It convinces me all the more that Skol is out to ruin us, not the Warren Report, on which he can bestow only benefit.

The "part-time instructor" mentioned at the top of p.2 is probably Russ Trunzo, who (with innocent intent) gave Skol all the material from Coup.

I would be most interested, Harold, to know how Skol came to identify Braden and Bradley. If you know, please pass the info, or if you can guess. I have a copy of the Dallas letter that you sent me, but shared that info with no one.

I do not have legal knowledge sufficient to determine what would be the result of a certain thing in Sk's suit, but will here set it forth as a possibility as though my fears are grounded. In the suit, Sk asks that the WR be declared null and void. This in itself is sufficient to get the suit booted out of the courtroom door, for the WR has no legal standing whatever, anyway, and Sk's request is moot from the very beginning. What I wonder is this: will the WR gain some legal standing ~~when~~ as a result of ~~Sk's suit~~ Sk losing his suit?xx I don't know.

On the basis of reading the interview, I'll bet my sweet ass that Sk did not read any of the 26 vols., and probably very little of the works by critics. Except in search of stuff to steal, of course. The word "quagmire" (p. 11, line 13) is one that Harold sometimes uses. I don't know of others who use it.

The suit and interview are sufficient to prove that Sk is a thief and (worse) that he well knows he is a thief.

I cannot now attribute his activities to stupidity. I think he is out to get us-- Harold, really.

In letter to Sprague I told him my opinion of Sk and denied that I was greatly influenced by Harold's view, though our coincide closely. Sprague and others have been lapping up Sk crap. They think any sort of publicity is good, considering not at all how all of this will recoil back on the purveyors of this crap.

There's no use talking more about this, for you know well how I feel. I have no doubt that Harold can stop Sk legally, but it's going to cost.

Have to stop now.

Still,

*Jick*

P.S. Harold:

*Enclosed is The Councilor's  
article on Sprague's latest.*